(c) whether the private refiners submitted any proposal of direct marketing right to their petroleum product; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The Government in November, 1997 decided to dismantle the Administered Pricing Mechanism in a phased manner. As per this, the petroleum sector is scheduled for full deregulation from the year 2002 onwards. Representations have been received for allowing marketing of petroleum products. No decision has been taken as yet.

Pending Cases for Allotment of Dealerships of LPG, Petrol etc. in Andhra Pradesh

3010. Dr. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases relating to allotment of retail and wholesale dealership of LPG, petrol, kerosene and diesel pending in Andhra Pradesh, category-wise; and

(b) by when the cases will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) At present, 156 retail outlet dealerships, 197 LPG distributorships and 3 SKO-LDO dealerships are pending in the State of Andhra Pradesh for selection through interviews by the Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs).

Four new DSBs have been set up for Andhra Pradesh for early selection of dealers/distributors. Selection is made in a phased manner, and it may not be possible at this stage to indicate the exact time frame for completion of selection for the pending locations.

Pending Cases for Allotment of Retail and Wholesale Dealership of Kerosene, LPG, etc. In Tamil Nadu

3011. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending for allotment of retail and wholesale dealership of kerosene, petrol and LPG in Tamil Nadu as on 1st August, 2000;

(b) whether Government have fixed any time-frame to dispose of such pending cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) At present, 93 retail outlet dealerships, 193 LPG distributorships and 13 SKO-LDO dealerships are pending in the State of Tamil Nadu for selection through interviews by the Dealer Selection Boards.

Four new DSBs have been set up for Tamil Nadu for early selection of dealers/distributors. Selection is made in a phased manner, and it may not be possible at this stage to indicate the exact time frame for completion of selection for the pending locations.

Agreement with Russia and other countries in the field of petroleum

3012. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of agreements entered into with Russia and other countries in the field of petroleum alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Acute Problem of LPG Being Faced by Residents of Suraigwail, Ranikhet

3013. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that residents of Suraigwail in Ranikhet Tehsil, Bikayasain Block, Distt. Almora, Uttar Pradesh have been facing acute problem in getting LPG gas cylinders delivered by Indane Gas Agency, Ranikhet, Almora, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that delivery van of LPG gas cylinder goes only from Ranikhet to Mali and leaves Suraigwail, Daula and Pali villages;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard; and